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RUSS KINYON
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October 21, 2016

The Honorable Thomas Wheeler
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
445 Twelfth Street, S.W.
Washington DC 20554

In the Matter of Connect America Fund, ETC Annual Reports and Certifications, Rural
Broadband Experiments

WC Docket Nos. 10-90 et al.

Dear Chairman Wheeler:

I write today to urge you to give swift consideration to New York State's Petition for Expedited Waiver, filed October 12, 2016. The Phase II funding designated under of the CAF in 2015 was intended to subsidize the construction of high-speed broadband networks, at least 10 Mbps, in unserved and underserved areas throughout the United States. The denial of \$170 million in Connect America Fund (CAF) money not claimed by Verizon significantly has potential to significantly delay broadband expansion in New York State. As noted by Senator Schumer, the CAF Further Notice issued by the Commission on May 25, 2016, recognized that the Commission retained a "universal service obligation to connect consumers in areas that would have been reached had the offer been accepted."

This funding is desperately needed to advance this mission of connecting consumers throughout New York State, particularly in the Adirondack and North Country. Broadband expansion has lagged in these areas due to the primarily rural nature of these areas and difficulty reaching these areas economically through private enterprise. This lag has greatly affected the economic opportunities in our region with significant impacts to business attraction, tourism, workforce development, education, and innovation. Each day that these communities lack adequate broadband service, they fall further behind in the struggle to retain and attract population and investment.

The allocation of these CAF funds is crucial and urgent to leverage and supplement private ventures, which are incapable of meeting the demand independently. We appreciate your timely approval of this waiver and the provision of these funds to grow broadband infrastructure in New York State.

Sincerely,

Russ Kinyon
Director of Economic Development